

August 14, 2007

TO: Members of the MAG Regional Council

FROM: Mayor James M. Cavanaugh, Goodyear, Chair

SUBJECT: MEETING NOTIFICATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Meeting - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 22, 2007

MAG Office, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room

302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix

Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

MAG Office, Suite 200

The next Regional Council meeting will be held at the MAG offices at the time and place noted above. Members of the Regional Council may attend either in person, by videoconference or by telephone conference call. Members who wish to remove any items from the Consent Agenda are requested to contact the MAG office. MAG will host a dinner/reception for the Regional Council members following the meeting in the MAG Cholla Room on the 2nd floor. Supporting information is enclosed for your review.

Please park in the garage underneath the building. Parking places will be reserved for Regional Council members on the first and second levels of the garage. Bring your ticket to the meeting, parking will be validated. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the garage.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), MAG does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admissions to or participation in its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

If you have any questions, please call the MAG office.

c: MAG Management Committee

**MAG REGIONAL COUNCIL
TENTATIVE AGENDA
August 22, 2007**

		<u>COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED</u>
1.	<u>Call to Order</u>	
2.	<u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>	
3.	<u>Call to the Audience</u> An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Regional Council on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Regional Council requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on agenda items posted for action will be provided the opportunity at the time the item is heard.	3. Information.
4.	<u>Executive Director's Report</u> The MAG Executive Director will provide a report to the Regional Council on activities of general interest.	4. Information and discussion.
5.	<u>Approval of Consent Agenda</u> Council members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda. Prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience will be provided an opportunity to comment on consent items. Consent items are marked with an asterisk (*).	5. Approval of the Consent Agenda.
ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSENT*		
MINUTES		
*5A.	<u>Approval of the July 25, 2007 Meeting Minutes</u>	5A. Review and approval of the July 25, 2007 meeting minutes.

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS

- *5B. Requested Material Change to Purchase the Mesa Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility and Amend the MAG Regional Transportation Plan and FY 2008 to 2012 Transportation Improvement Program

According to A.R.S. 28-6353, MAG has the responsibility to approve material changes for projects funded from the Proposition 400 sales tax. The Regional Public Transportation Authority has requested approval of a material cost change for the purchase of the City of Mesa Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility. The RPTA Board of Directors approved the purchase of the facility for \$9,269,199, which represents Mesa's local investment in the facility. RPTA evaluated a number of options including continuing to lease the facility from the City of Mesa. According to the analysis, the best fiscal option is to purchase the facility using sales tax funds from the public transportation fund. The Management Committee recommended approval. This item is on the August 20, 2007 Transportation Policy Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee.

- *5C. Consultant Selection for Safety Evaluation of the Elderly Mobility Sign Project

The MAG Transportation Safety Committee and the MAG Elderly Mobility Stakeholders Group recently launched a regional road safety project that will result in the installation of street name signs with larger letter sizes, using a font that is more legible to road users. The two committees also recommended a project to evaluate the overall safety effectiveness of these signs. MAG released a Request for Proposals on June 4, 2007, for this purpose. One proposal was received from Arizona State University. A proposal review panel evaluated the proposal and recommended to MAG the selection of Arizona State University. The Management Committee recommended approval of the selection. Please refer to the enclosed material.

- 5B. Approval of the purchase of the Mesa Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility and to amend the MAG Regional Transportation Plan and FY 2008 to 2012 Transportation Improvement Program to include the project.

- 5C. Approval of the selection of Arizona State University for performing the Safety Evaluation of the Elderly Mobility Sign Project for an amount not to exceed \$15,000.

***5D. Requested Changes to the ADOT Program**

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has requested MAG concurrence with two proposed changes to FY 2008 of the ADOT Program. These changes would also require amendment of the MAG FY 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), as appropriate. The changes involve advance right-of-way acquisition in the SR 801 (I-10 Reliever) corridor, and implementation of a design-build project on the 202L (Red Mountain Freeway). The SR 801 (I-10 Reliever) request is to increase funding from \$3,000,000 to \$15,000,000 for right-of-way protection in FY 2008, for future freeway construction in the corridor. The 202L (Red Mountain Freeway) request would implement a \$184,060,000 design-build project to be initiated in fiscal year 2008. Funding would be provided from six previously programmed projects for the Red Mountain Freeway, which had been scheduled for fiscal years 2008-2011. MAG has reviewed the proposed program changes and has determined that they are reasonable, will benefit the overall implementation of the RTP Freeway Program, and can be accomplished within available ADOT cash flows. The Management Committee recommended approval. This item is on the August 20, 2007 Transportation Policy Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

5D. Concurrence with the proposed changes to the ADOT Program to advance right-of-way acquisition in the SR 801 (I-10 Reliever) corridor, and implement a design-build project on the 202L (Red Mountain Freeway). and to amend the MAG Regional Transportation Plan – FY 2007 Update and the FY 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program, as appropriate, contingent on an air quality conformity analysis.

AIR QUALITY ITEMS***5E. Conformity Consultation**

The Maricopa Association of Governments is conducting consultation on a conformity assessment for an amendment to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan - 2007 Update. The proposed amendment includes minor project revisions to Arizona Department of Transportation projects for right-of-way acquisition in the SR 801 (Interstate-10 Reliever)

5E. Consultation.

corridor, and implementation of a design-build project on Loop 202 Red Mountain Freeway. Minor project revisions do not require a conformity determination. Comments on the conformity assessment are requested by August 17, 2007. Please refer to the enclosed material.

GENERAL ITEMS

*5F. Consultant Contract for AZ-SMART Support

The FY 2008 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, approved by the Regional Council in May 2007, includes a \$40,000 project for AZ-SMART support. MAG is in the process of developing a statewide socioeconomic model, Arizona Socioeconomic Modeling, Analysis and Reporting Toolbox (AZ-SMART). The AZ-SMART socioeconomic modeling suite will primarily support socioeconomic activities at MAG. AZ-SMART will build upon a model that MAG currently uses, the Subarea Allocation Model (SAM). This model was developed by Planning Technologies. Since Planning Technologies is the developer of SAM, it is uniquely able to provide detailed technical guidance and support on the implementation and testing for AZ-SMART. The Management Committee recommended approval. Please refer to enclosed material.

*5G. Regional Support for Low Demand Homeless Overflow Shelter

At the June MAG Management Committee meeting, there was discussion about regional support for the low demand homeless shelter operated by Central Arizona Shelter Services. Since then, municipalities have come forward to offer support. The Management Committee requested the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness to address the low demand shelter. The Continuum of Care and the Management Committee recommended a resolution supporting the shelter. Please refer to the enclosed material.

5F. Approval of the selection of Planning Technologies for AZ-SMART support for an amount not to exceed \$40,000.

5G. Approval of the resolution of the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness supporting the Central Arizona Shelter Services' low demand overflow shelter for single homeless men.

ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS

6. Statewide Transportation Acceleration Needs (STAN) II Account

As part of the FY 2008 state budget, the legislature transferred \$62 million from the State Highway Fund to the State Transportation Acceleration Needs (STAN) account. The legislature in HB 2793 established a subaccount for the reimbursement of interest expenses incurred by or on behalf of a local jurisdiction for the acceleration of transportation projects. HB 2793 allocated \$10 million from the \$62 million STAN II appropriation for this purpose. State law requires that the regional planning agency establish a process for the review and approval of reimbursement of interest costs from the STAN account. State law also requires that for a project to be eligible for reimbursement of the interest cost, an agreement needs to be in place with at least one other city or county, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and the regional planning agency. On March 20, 2000, the Regional Council adopted a Highway Acceleration Policy. Several MAG member agencies have since accelerated projects using the policy. HB 2793 has now clarified that the interest cost incurred by the cities can be reimbursed by the funding provided in the STAN II legislation.

On July 26, 2007, a request was sent to the MAG member agencies that eligible projects for interest reimbursement be sent to MAG for consideration. MAG was notified that the I-10 widening project, approved by the Regional Council on April 26, 2006, is interested in receiving reimbursement of its interest costs for that project. The Arizona Department of Transportation had previously scheduled this project to go out to bid, with construction commencing in early fall of this year (2007). To receive the interest reimbursement requires MAG to be part of the agreement with the agencies requesting reimbursement. In addition to the I-10 widening project, the City of Mesa submitted a proposal to accelerate the design and construction of Williams Gateway Freeway (SR

6. Information, discussion and possible approval of a project(s) for reimbursement of interest expense up to \$10 million, to recommend that the State Transportation Board approve up to \$10 million of STAN funding be allocated for this purpose, and to authorize the MAG Executive Director to enter into an agreement with ADOT and the participating cities for the project to be eligible for reimbursement.

802) by approximately five years. On August 8, 2007, the Management Committee recommended authorizing the MAG Executive Director to enter into an agreement with ADOT and the cities of Avondale, Goodyear, and Litchfield Park for reimbursement of interest costs of the acceleration of the I-10 widening project. On August 13, 2007, the Executive Committee discussed providing reimbursement for the I-10 west project and options that may be considered for the project. Comments from the Executive Committee are included for consideration. The Transportation Policy Committee will meet on August 20, 2007 to consider the STAN II legislation and possible reimbursement for the I-10 west project. Information from the TPC will be provided to the Regional Council. Please refer to the enclosed material.

7. Geographic Representative for the Transportation Policy Committee

At the July Regional Council meeting, the appointment of the representative for the geographically balanced seat on the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) was discussed. The composition of the TPC was established by the Regional Council on April 24, 2002. As part of the TPC, three are selected from areas that need to be represented to achieve geographic balance, with the members selected from and by the under represented geographic area and ratified by the Regional Council. Interstate 17 is used as a boundary in determining geographic balance. With a recent resignation from the TPC from a member who was selected to achieve geographic balance, the question was raised if the agency held the seat or the member representing the agency held the seat. The MAG General Counsel was requested to provide guidance on this issue. This information is currently being prepared and will be sent in a separate mailing.

7. Information and discussion.

8. The Interstate 10-Hassayampa Valley Transportation Framework Study

Since May 2006, MAG has had the Interstate 10-Hassayampa Valley Transportation Framework Study underway for establishing a mobility framework for a significant portion of Maricopa County west of the White Tank Mountains. A briefing will be provided about the results and potential recommendations that have been generated on the project. The present schedule for the project anticipates bringing the Hassayampa Valley project for MAG acceptance in September 2007. Please refer to the enclosed material.

8. Information and discussion.

GENERAL ITEMS

9. Comments from the Council

An opportunity will be provided for Regional Council members to present a brief summary of current events. The Regional Council is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

9. Information.